

NEWSLETTER

April 13, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 16th - Good Friday Worship, Communion, & Prayer
 - April 20th - Easter Services
- Scan the code for a church calendar



GET CONNECTED

Would you like to keep connected with what's happening at Gateway Church Monroe (text & email). Scan the code and fill out the form. Email and mobile phones are only utilized for church connections



REACHING OUT - PCM SOCCER TEAM

Join us for the PCM Soccer Team Meal on Thursday, May 8th, at the High School Commons, serving around 6:30 PM (time to be confirmed). We're feeding approximately 40 players with a pasta theme—Jersey Freeze is covering ice cream for dessert! We need one leader to coordinate and volunteers to help with prep, serving, and cleanup. Contact Pastor Jon (515-325-7001) to get involved and support our Mustangs!

GIVING

Because we believe all that we have is a gift from God, we choose to make our giving an act of worship.

Gateway Church Monroe's Offerings

- General Fund (Weekly Goal - \$1539)
- Missions (Weekly Goal - \$247)

Three Ways to Give

- At the back of the room
- www.gatewaychurch.com/giving
- Scan the code



PRAYER REQUESTS

Got a prayer request? We'd be honored to hear from you! You can share it with us in three easy ways:

- **Text/Call:** 515-325-7001
- **Email:** thebowtie84@gmail.com
- **Visit:** www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com/prayer

Whatever works best for you!

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Iowa Prayer Breakfast is a Maundy Thursday celebration that brings together people from all walks of life to mark the beginning of the Easter weekend. Attendees enjoy a hearty breakfast and the company of friends and colleagues. Doors open at 6:45am and the event starts at 7:15am.



PLACES TO CONNECT

Wednesday Night, 6:30 PM Prayer Connection
Contact: Jon Dunwell (515-325-7001)



I WANT TO KNOW...

Visit www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com for updates, information, past messages, to submit prayer requests, and to view the weekly bulletin.

GET INVOLVED

If you have questions, suggestions, or want to serve, please reach out to us:

- thebowtie84@gmail.com
- 515-325-7001
- www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com

Palm Sunday, Elements, & Symbols

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as described in the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19), is a pivotal event in our Christian faith, marking the beginning of Holy Week and foreshadowing both his kingship and his sacrificial death. Each element carries symbolic significance, rooted in Jewish tradition, prophecy, and the cultural context of the time. Here's an explanation of each:

1. "HOSANNA"

Meaning: "Hosanna" is a Hebrew word (הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא, *hoshia na*) meaning "save us, please" or "save now." It originates from Psalm 118:25, a psalm of thanksgiving and deliverance often recited during Jewish festivals like the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

Spiritual Exercise: Prayer of Dependence

Set aside 5-10 minutes in a quiet space. Begin by repeating "Hosanna" aloud or in your heart, focusing on its meaning: "Save us, please." Reflect on an area of your life where you need deliverance—whether from fear, sin, or hardship. Then, offer a simple prayer: "Lord, I cry Hosanna to you. Save me in [specific need]. I trust in your power and love." Close by thanking Jesus for being your Savior, even in ways you may not yet see.

2. "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"

Origin: This phrase comes directly from Psalm 118:26, part of the Hallel (a series of psalms sung during Jewish festivals, including Passover). It was a traditional blessing for pilgrims entering Jerusalem or the Temple.

Spiritual Exercise: Scriptural Affirmation

Read Psalm 118:26 aloud slowly: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Then, personalize it by imagining Jesus entering your life today. Write or say a short affirmation: "Blessed are you, Jesus, who comes into my heart in the name of the Lord." Spend a few moments meditating on how Jesus' presence brings blessing to your struggles, joys, or decisions. End by blessing someone else in prayer, asking Jesus to come into their life too.

3. RIDING ON A DONKEY

Prophetic Fulfillment: This act fulfills Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." This prophecy describes a humble, peaceful king.

Spiritual Exercise: Act of Humility

Reflect on Zechariah 9:9 and Jesus' choice of a donkey over a warhorse. Identify one way you can embrace humility or peace today—perhaps forgiving someone, serving without recognition, or letting go of pride. Take a small, practical step to embody this (e.g., write an apology, help someone quietly). As you do, pray: "Jesus, King of peace, teach me to ride with humility as you did." Notice how this shifts your spirit.

4. PALM FRONDS

Cultural Context: Palm branches were symbols of victory, triumph, and joy in Jewish tradition. They were waved during the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40) and had been associated with Jewish nationalism since the Maccabean Revolt (2 Maccabees 10:7), when palms symbolized liberation from foreign rule.

Spiritual Exercise: Celebration of Victory

Find a small branch, leaf, or even a piece of paper to hold as a "palm." Sit quietly and recall a victory Jesus has won in your life—over a struggle, doubt, or despair—or his ultimate victory on the cross. Wave your "palm" gently as you thank him: "Lord, I celebrate your triumph over [specific situation or sin]." Then, visualize laying this victory at his feet, trusting him for future battles. Keep the "palm" somewhere visible as a reminder this week.

5. LAYING DOWN COATS

Cultural Practice: Spreading garments on the ground was an ancient gesture of honor and submission, often reserved for royalty or revered figures. A notable precedent is 2 Kings 9:13, where cloaks were laid before Jehu as he was proclaimed king of Israel.

Spiritual Exercise: Surrender Offering

Take a physical object that represents something valuable to you (e.g., a coat, a photo, a journal). Place it before you as a symbol of your life or a specific burden. Reflect on how the crowd honored Jesus by laying down their coats. Then, pray: "Jesus, I lay down [name the burden or part of your life] before you, my King. I honor you with my trust." Leave the object there for a moment, symbolizing your surrender, and feel the freedom of giving it to him.

Reaching Out - Judea and Samaria

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



Nan Veach

www.centraliowafca.org/nanveach
nveach@fca.org

Gateway Church Family,

It is an honor to give an update on my ministry, specifically to what is happening in the PCM Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club. It was just a few years ago that this club got started, and as you can see from the photos, attendance is solid –with an average of 40-50 kids every week. We have 5 strong adult volunteers who are committed to pouring into these kids, which is crucial.

Numbers are great, but I am more excited about the content of the huddles. Student leaders are making it a priority to share the gospel with their peers and build community in discipleship to their teams and classmates. They are talking about what it looks like to follow Jesus in the midst of fear, doubt and seasons of change and uncertainty. They are digging into God's Word and trusting scripture as the authority for their decisions. This should encourage all of us as we launch the next generation of leaders into the world!

At each huddle, local churches and families provide food for the student athletes (which always satisfies and gets the kids in the door) and then the games create a fun, engaging space to build relationships. The depth of God's word is shared and poured out to give meaning and purpose to their identity as student-athletes on mission for Jesus. Because of your faithful support, I was able to provide the club with Bibles and gospel resources this year for use during their huddles.

The huddles are also a space for kids who are unsure about Christianity but are curious. They can come for the food and fun and then experience what following Jesus looks like from their peers and then be invited to attend the local youth groups with them. Our desire is to be the bridge to the local church!

PCM had their last huddle of the year on Wednesday evening where they celebrated the outgoing senior class. This group has been tremendous leaders from the beginning and will be missed.

This year I was able to gift each of the graduating seniors "cords" to wear at their graduation ceremony. The addition of the cords was approved and actually encouraged by the school administration. They recognize that the FCA leaders have been students of high character, integrity and trustworthiness within the student body. I believe these cords are a significant way to provide distinction for our Christian leaders to the community and to their peers. Some of these leaders may not have distinctive honors on the athletic field but will stand out for being a Champion for Christ—which I would argue is far superior. (thanks for supporting me and making this possible as well).

One of the key elements for my role as an Area Rep for FCA is discipleship of these young people in encouraging them to continue on in their faith, during the summer and beyond high school...

- Don't take the summer off!!
- Stay in community with other believers.
- For those going to college, find a church over the summer—before you leave home!
- Be intentional about your faith, or the enemy will help you find every excuse not to.
-

I serve 7 other high schools in Eastern Polk and Western Jasper county and also at Grand View University. My role as a missionary to these schools allows me to continue to disciple into the next phase for some of these kids and see the fruit of FCA mature. This is especially fun when kids from my high schools commit to GUV.

- Please pray for these students as they move ahead in their next chapter, that we have equipped them to withstand the pressures that they will inevitably face
- and that God would surround them with like-minded friends.
- For those remaining at PCM, pray for our new leaders, that they will rise up to lead next year and
- that they will continue the legacy of PCM FCA that has been established.
- Pray for me as I am called to serve in so many areas that there would be volunteers to serve and assist in all of my schools.
- Pray for hearts to receive the gospel and that the Word transforms lives. Pray for God to provide financially for my ministry, that I would continue to steward His resources well.

So very grateful for your generosity, prayers and encouragement!

All for Him,

Nan

PCM FCA PICTURES



Message Notes